

Pen Ambler Park
Lower Gwynedd Township
Montgomery County, PA

Project Description:

When a Township can build a great park, the quality of life for its residents is immediately enhanced. When two Townships combine their resources to build a park, it becomes an even greater community asset as more residents will know about it and the more usage it will see. A DCNR grant of \$200,000 matched by Lower Gwynedd Township allowed the Township and Ambler Borough to successfully develop Pen Ambler Park. A local developer, The Nolen Group, donated money to offset the cost of landscaping, and the North Wales Water Authority contributed a water connection for the site. Both communities expressed a need for a recreational area in their open space plans, and decided to work together to fulfill this need. Ambler Borough originally acquired the land with \$875,000 from the Montgomery County Open Space Fund, and Lower Gwynedd developed the park. The park is located within Lower Gwynedd but is easily accessible by Ambler Borough residents by walking, car, or



even train.

The highlights of the park include a natural amphitheatre, a baseball field, a walking trail, basketball courts, and a playground. The park lies along Hanover Creek, and preserves existing woodlands and riparian edges along the creek. Both active and passive recreation is available at the park. You can warm up with a jog around the mile long trail, enjoy a game of basketball, relax in the open space, or attend a Shakespearean play at the amphitheatre.

Since the park is 17 acres, there is plenty of space available for even the most crowded days. The playground, benches, trash receptacles, and picnic tables are all composed of recycled plastic. In utilizing best management practices, the development of the park also used recycled asphalt for the trail and decided to keep the parking area unpaved to reduce stormwater runoff. The park even has educational signs noting areas of historic significance and natural habitats.

Inter-municipal cooperation enabled the access to more resources and resulted in a higher quality of life for both communities. The area would have become a high density housing area but remains open space for the community. DCNR awarded a \$200,000 Keystone grant to help build the park, Lower Gwynedd Township, The Nolen Group, and North Wales Water Authority provided the necessary matching funds.

Quote: Larry Comunale, Lower Gwynedd Township Manager

“Pen Ambler Park is a great example of intergovernmental work. It was a win-win for everybody involved, but most of all for our community. Lower Gwynedd Township and Ambler Borough both wanted this area to remain as green space for the residents to enjoy.”



Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:

2004: \$200,000 Keystone Grant
 Matching Funds - \$648,500
 Lower Gwynedd Township - \$602,500
 The Nolen Group - \$43,500
 North Wales Water Authority - \$2,500